

Message Text

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ORIGIN EUR-12

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EUR/WE:EMROWELL

AF/C:EFUGIT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG PRIORITY

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 003390

E.O. 11652:GDF

TAGS:PFOR, EGEN, EC, US

SUBJECT:DIALOGUE WITH EC PRESIDENCY -- ASSISTANT SECRETARY
HARTMAN'S DISCUSSION WITH LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR MEISCH,
JANUARY 5, 1976.

SUMMARY: LUXEMBOURG AMBASSADOR MEISCH CALLED ON EUR ASSIS-
TANT SECRETARY HARTMAN JANUARY 5 IN PREPARATION FOR HIS RE-
TURN TO LUXEMBOURG FOR CONSULTATIONS WITH PRIME MINISTER
THORN ON HOW LUXEMBOURG WILL CONDUCT ITS SIX-MONTH EC PRES-

DENCY WHICH BEGAN JANUARY 1. MEISCH INDICATED HE BE-
LIEVES MAIN CHANNEL FOR US DIALOGUE WITH THE LUXEMBOURG
PRESIDENCY WILL BE ON EUROPEAN END THROUGH AMEMBASSY LUX-
EMBOURG OR PERMREP IN BRUSSELS ON ECONOMIC MATTERS, WITH
ASSISTANCE OF BELGIANS AND DUTCH IN WASHINGTON ON CERTAIN
ISSUES. HE ALSO REQUESTED US VIEWS IN PREPARATION FOR EC
POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING TO BE HELD IN LUXEMBOURG JANU-
ARY 19. ISSUES TOUCHED ON IN LATTER CONTEXT INCLUDED
CYPRUS, MIDDLE EAST, ANGOLA, AID TO PORTUGAL AND SITUATION
IN SPAIN. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR MEISCH SAID THAT THORN IS SUMMONING LUXEM-
BOURG CHIEFS OF MISSION HOME FOR CONSULTATIONS JANUARY 8-9
TO CONSIDER HOW LUXEMBOURG SHOULD ORGANIZE ITSELF TO PLAY
EC

PRESIDENCY ROLE. MEISCH WILL ATTEND AND REPORT BACK TO US
ON HOW LUXEMBOURG WISHES TO CHANNEL THE DIALOGUE IN
WASHINGTON AND EUROPE. HE SUGGESTED THAT ONE METHOD IN
WASHINGTON, WHENEVER MEISCH HIMSELF IS ABSENT OR SUBJECT
MATTER OF PARTICULAR EXCHANGE WARRANTS, WOULD BE FOR DE-
PARTMENT TO DISCUSS POLITICAL ISSUES WITH DUTCH EMBASSY
AND ECONOMIC ISSUES WITH BELGIANS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED DIFFI-
CULTY OF DISTINGUISHING PURELY POLITICAL FROM ECONOMIC
ISSUES IN SUCH INSTANCES AS CIEC AND ASSISTANCE TO POR-
TUGAL. MEISCH SAID HE THOUGHT MAIN CHANNEL FOR DI-
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ALOGUE IN ANY CASE WOULD BE BETWEEN AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AND MINISTRY, ALTHOUGH LUXEMBOURG PERMREP TO EC IN
BRUSSELS WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE INVOLVED ON SOME ISSUES.
MEISCH SAID HE THOUGHT WORKING THROUGH AMEMBASSY
LUXEMBOURG WILL BE MOST EXPEDITIOUS AND EFFICIENT METHOD
OF MAINTAINING DIALOGUE. HE WILL CONFIRM LUXEMBOURG PRE-
FERENCES CONCERNING THESE ARRANGEMENTS WHEN HE RETURNS TO
WASHINGTON JANUARY 14. HARTMAN SAID THAT IN ANY CASE WE
WILL KEEP MEISCH INFORMED OF US-EC DEVELOPMENTS THROUGH-
OUT LUXEMBOURG TERM AND HOPED THAT MEISCH WOULD NOT
HESITATE TO REPORT OR RAISE ISSUES WITH DEPARTMENT OFFI-
CIALS WHENEVER HE THOUGHT IT WARRANTED.

2. MEISCH THEN TURNED TO LIST OF QUESTIONS HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO RAISE IN PREPARATION FOR JANUARY 19 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING IN LUXEMBOURG. ON CYPRUS ISSUE, HE HAD BEEN ASKED FOR USG VIEWS ON PROSPECTS FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT NATO MEETING AND COUNCIL OF EUROPE SESSION AT WHICH THE GREEKS AND TURKS HAD REPORTEDLY DISCUSSED THE ISSUE BILATERALLY. HARTMAN SAID THERE APPEARED TO BE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING THE NEXT ROUND STARTED. WALDHEIM HAD TALKED WITH THE GREEKS AND TURKS AFTER THE NATO MEETING AND HAD RECEIVED POSITIVE RESPONSES. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, THE CYPRIOTS WROTE HIM SAYING THE GOC WOULD BE WILLING TO RESUME THE TALKS ON THE BASIS OF THE UNGA RESOLUTION. HARTMAN POINTED OUT THAT THE TURKS HAD NEVER ACCEPTED THAT RESOLUTION AS A BASIS FOR THE TALKS, AND THAT OUR UNDERSTANDING HAD BEEN THAT THE TALKS WOULD BE RECONVENED WITHOUT AN AGENDA AND WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. WE HAVE INFORMED THE PARTIES, INCLUDING THE GOC, THAT WE DO NOT REGARD THE LETTER AS A HELPFUL DEVELOPMENT. OUR EFFORTS ARE DEVOTED TO GETTING THE PROCESS OF MORE OR LESS CONTINUOUS TALKS STARTED AGAIN IN A CONTEXT IN WHICH ALL SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION CAN BE DISCUSSED SIMULTANEOUSLY. IN ANSWER TO MEISCH'S QUESTION, HARTMAN SUGGESTED THE EC COULD ASSIST IN THIS EFFORT BY URGING THE

PARTIES TO RESUME THE TALKS. HARTMAN SAID THE EC SHOULD CHECK WITH WALDHEIM BEFORE UNDERTAKING ANY SPECIFIC STEPS, SINCE ANY DEMARCHES SHOULD BE IN SUPPORT OF HIS ACTIVITIES, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND SUGGESTED THAT MEISCH CALL BRIAN URQHART WHEN HE PASSES THROUGH NEW YORK FOR LUXEMBOURG LATER THIS WEEK.

3. ON THE MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, MEISCH ASKED IF WE SAW ANY CHANGE IN ISRAELI "INTRANSIGENCE# TOWARD THE PALESTINIANS. HARTMAN REPLIED THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO GIVE DEFINITIVE VIEWS AT THE MOMENT, ESPECIALLY SINCE ALLON WAS CURRENTLY IN WASHINGTON, BUT THAT WE WOULD TRY TO GET SOMETHING FOR LUXEMBOURG BEFORE THE JANUARY 19 POLITICAL DIRECTORS MEETING. HARTMAN DID NOTE THAT THE ISRAELI EXPRESSION OF WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE WITH JORDAN COULD BE A POSITIVE, IF PERHAPS BELATED, DEVELOPMENT.

4. MEISCH ASKED HOW THE DEPARTMENT VIEWED RECENT CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS ON THE ANGOLAN SITUATION. HARTMAN SAID HE THOUGHT THEM UNFORTUNATE AND THAT THEY PLACED THE US IN A WEAKENED POSITION. HE SAID THE IMPORTANT QUESTION IS HOW THE OAU WILL ACT WHEN DISCUSSING ANGOLA. IF THE OAU AVOIDS THE TEMPTATION TO TAKE SIDES, IF IT CALLS FOR AN ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY AND THE EXPULSION OF ALL FOREIGN FORCES, IT COULD PLAY A VERY USEFUL ROLE. THE QUESTION IS WHETHER IT CAN DO THIS, GIVEN THE MEMBER-

SHIP OF SOME VERY STRONG MPLA SUPPORTERS. HARTMAN SUGGESTED EUROPEAN TIES WITH OAU MEMBERS COULD BE HELPFUL IN URGING BALANCED CONSIDERATION OF THIS ISSUE. MEISCH SUGGESTED RECENT SOVIET STATEMENTS MAY INDICATE THE USSR IS WILLING TO BE MORE FORTHCOMING. HARTMAN REPLIED WE ARE LOOKING INTO THIS QUESTION, ESPECIALLY AT REFERENCES TO THE OAU IN RECENT STATEMENTS FROM MOSCOW, BUT THE PUZZLING QUESTION REMAINS OF THE THINKING BEHIND SOVIET INVOLVEMENT IN ANGOLA AND THE RELATION OF THAT THINKING TO HOW THE SOVIETS SEE DETENTE. MEISCH SAID DOBRYNIN HAD TOLD HIM THERE WAS NO RELATION BETWEEN THE TWO, AND HARTMAN RESPONDED THAT THIS WAS NOT AN UNEXPECTED REACTION.

5. ON PORTUGAL, HARTMAN NOTED THAT A PORTUGUESE TEAM WAS REPORTEDLY DUE TO VISIT BRUSSELS THIS WEEK TO IDENTIFY ASSISTANCE PROJECTS. HE SAID PORTUGAL HAS TOLD US IT IS HAVING VERY SERIOUS LIQUIDITY PROBLEMS AND IS NOW DOWN TO ITS GOLD STOCKS. WE ARE PRESENTLY LOOKING INTO WHAT WE CAN DO TO HELP. WE UNDERSTAND THE GERMANS WILL MAKE A CONFIDENTIAL

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SIZEABLE BILATERAL LOAN ON MUCH THE SAME TERMS AS ITS LOAN TO ITALY. IT COULD, HOWEVER, HAVE A BAD PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECT IN LISBON IF IT BECOMES KNOWN THAT PORTUGAL

WOULD PLEDGE ITS GOLD AGAINST LOANS. HARTMAN SAID IT WOULD BE USEFUL IF THE PROMISED EC ASSISTANCE COULD BE MOVED FORWARD. HE NOTED THAT WE UNDERSTAND THAT EIB FUNDS WOULD BE TIED TO SPECIFIC PROJECTS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS AN EIB LENDING FUND IN PORTUGAL COULD BE ESTABLISHED SO THAT THE FLOW OF ASSISTANCE COULD BEGIN AND APPROVAL OF SPECIFIC PROJECTS MADE ON AN EXPEDITIOUS AD HOC BASIS. HARTMAN SAID WE FAVOR SUCH ASSISTANCE FROM THE WEST BECAUSE WE VIEW THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN PORTUGAL AS INCREASINGLY FAVORABLE SINCE NOVEMBER, WITH MODERATES BUILDING THEIR STRENGTH STEADILY. HE NOTED THAT THE KEY PROBLEM WAS BUILDING INVESTOR CONFIDENCE IN PORTUGAL, AND THAT IF THAT CONFIDENCE CAN BE ACHIEVED AND IF THE PORTUGUESE LEADERSHIP ACTS SENSIBLY, WE BELIEVE A SERIES OF SPECIFIC RESULTS WILL FOLLOW, INCLUDING COMMERCIAL LOANS AND RISES IN TOURISM AND IN REMITTANCES FROM PORTUGUESE WORKERS ABROAD. HARTMAN SUGGESTED, HOWEVER, RECENT PORTUGUESE INVESTMENT CODE HAD CERTAIN PROVISIONS AND RHETORIC WHICH MIGHT NOT HELP IN CREATING MOST DESIRABLE CLIMATE IN THIS REGARD.

6. ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN, HARTMAN SAID IT APPEARS THAT SOME EUROPEANS APPEAR TO FEEL THAT THE BEST WAY TO DEAL WITH THE EVOLVING SITUATION THERE IS TO PUT A GREAT DEAL OF PRESSURE ON THE NEW GOVERNMENT FOR IMMEDIATE REFORM. WE DO NOT AGREE, AND BELIEVE THAT THE INTERNAL SITUATION SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO PROGRESS SLOWLY AND IN SUCH A WAY

THAT IT CREATES CONFIDENCE WITHIN SPAIN AND AVOIDS THE
FEELING THAT MODERATE ELEMENTS THERE ARE BEING BELEAGUERED
FROM THE OUTSIDE. WE BELIEVE IT WILL NOT BE HELPFUL FOR
THE EUROPEANS TO ATTEMPT TO IMPOSE GREAT PRESSURE ON THE
KING AND THE NEW CABINET. MEISCH ACKNOWLEDGED THERE WERE
DIFFERING VIEWS ON THIS ISSUE WITHIN THE NINE. HE SAID
THAT THORN, FOR INSTANCE, WAS SYMPATHETIC TO THE SITUATION
OF THE MODERATES IN SPAIN, BUT THAT "SOME OTHERS ARE
INCLINED TO BE TOUGH". HE SAID HE WOULD CONVEY OUR
VIEWS TO THE EC.

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7. DISCUSSION CONCLUDED WITH HARTMAN AND MEISCH AGREEING
THAT WE SHOULD STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH ON THESE AND OTHER
ISSUES, SINGLING OUT ONWARD PROGRESS OF CIEC AND CONSULTA-
TION ON DEVELOPMENT OF LOS POSITIONS FOR MARCH MEETING AS
PRIME EXAMPLES. KISSINGER

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BONN

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THE HAGUE
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ATHENS
ANKARA
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